

15 November 1951

TAB "F"

AVIATION RESEARCH FACILITIES FOR THOSE WESTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS

DESIGNATED IN NIE-40

A. AIRCRAFT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FACILITIES

1. Scientific Accretions

a. The scientific benefits to the U.S.S.R., resulting from the acquisition of Western Europe before mid-1952, would be the increase of aircraft and aircraft equipment research capacity. This increase would be due to the reservoir of trained aircraft research personnel and the considerable research facilities, primarily wind tunnels. This acquisition would contribute primarily to Soviet subsonic aircraft research but also to a lesser extent to sonic and supersonic research.

b. This increase would be mainly in the quantity of projects that could be examined rather than in any improvement in the quality of research to be performed.

c. It is not believed that the acquisition of Western Europe in 1951 or 1952 would advance the date on which the U.S.S.R. is expected to have supersonic aircraft operational.

2. Disadvantages

No important disadvantages to the Soviet aircraft development program are foreseen in the occupation of Western Europe by the U.S.S.R.

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3. Discussion

a. The only Western European countries possessing substantial aircraft research and development facilities that would be of use to the U.S.S.R. are France, Sweden, Switzerland and to a lesser extent, Italy. The majority of the trained personnel would come from the countries possessing the research equipment, but the other countries have some trained personnel, who have been mainly concerned with theoretical work in the field of aeronautics.

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